(ii) Norms have been introduced on packaging for export of Spices and training is imparted to exporters on modern concepts of packaging;

(iii) Introduction of retail consumer packs for international markets; and

(iv) Conducting studies to streamline packaging standards requirements for Indian Spices under EEC Assistance.

(e) Prices of major Indian spices are comparatively high in the international markets.

(f) Various Developmental Schemmes are organised, in association with State Governments, Agricultural Universities etc. for increasing production and productivity of Spices and to create Export surpluses. The emphasis is being given for increasing production of pepper, ginger, turmeric and chillies which are important export oriented crops. There are programmes for supply of planting material through departmental and credit nurseries. The exchange rate adjustments and Exim Scripe scheme will also make our spices more competitive.

चुनावों पर होने वाले व्यय पर नियंत्रण

*72. **डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय** : क्या **विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चुनावों पर होने वाले बढ़ते हुए व्यय को नियंत्रित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ; और

(ख) लोक सभा और विधान सभा के प्रत्येक स्थान के लिए चुनाव कराने में इस समय अनुमानत: कितनी राशि व्यय होती है ?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री के० विजय भास्कर रेड्डी) : (क) भविष्य में होने वाले निर्वाचनों में, इलेक्ट्रानिक मतदान मशीनों का प्रयोग, निर्वाचन के आयोजन पर व्यय को कम करने के लिए एक व्यापक कदम होगा । लोक प्रतिनिधित्व (संशोधन) विधेयक, 1990 के जो राज्य सभा में विचाराधीन है, कुछ उपबंधों से भी निर्वाचनों पर होने वाले कुल व्यय में कमी होने की संभावना है ।

(ख) 1991 के साधारण निर्वाचन में हुए व्यय से संबंधित आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं और न ही 1989 के साधारण निर्वाचन के अंतिम आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं। उपलब्ध अनंतिम आंकड़ों के अनुसार, नवीं लोक सभा के 529 स्थानों के लिए साधारण निर्वाचन कराने में हुआ व्यय, 154.22 करोड़ रु० था जो प्रति स्थान के लिए लगभग 29 लाख रु० बनता है । राज्यों की विधान सभाओं के निर्वाचनों पर हुए व्ययों का वहन राज्य सरकारों द्वारा किया जाता है और ऐसे व्यय से संबंधित आंकड़े सरकार के पास उपलब्ध नहीं हैं । ये एकत्रित करके सदन के पटल पर रख दिए जाएंगे ।

Negotiations with USA on GATT and IPR

*73. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited USA to see his counterpart in connection with negotiations to be held on GATT, Intellectual Property Rights and similar subjects;

(b) whether any discussion had taken place there on the application of Pressler Law "301" to India being dropped; and

(c) whether his Ministry have drawn an alternate plan to encourage exports to USA and Europe in view of the protectionist policy of the developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir, Discussions were held with the United States Trade Representative, Ms. Carla Hills, in Washington on 24 September, 1991 on various issues before the Uruguay Round, including the Intellectual Property Rights, and the process of macro-economic reforms under way in India.

(b) No, Sir. There was no discussion pertaining to the so-called Pressler Amendment.

(c) A number of measures have been introduced to improve our export competitiveness on a global basis.

Modifications in Tehri Dam Project as a result of earthquake

*74. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of the recent earthquake in the Himalayas, the Tehri Dam Project would be stopped and the same will be resumed only after some modification therein; and

(b) what are the details of Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir. The recent earthquake in the Garhwal Hills measured 6.1 on the Richter Scale, while the proposed Tehri Dam is designed to withstand an earthquake of Magnitude 8 on the Richter Scale. The present earthquake has caused no damage to constructed structures of Tehri Dam i.e. head race tunnels, diversion tunnels and dam foundation.

(b) Does not arise.

Excise duty on hand made matchsticks

*75. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to remove excise duty on hand made match sticks as this duty is a burden on the consumers who are from the lower middle classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): There is no proposal at present to exempt hand made matches from excise duty.

Privatisation of Financial Institutions and Nationalised Banks

*76. KUMARI ALIA: Wil the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have a proposal for privatisation of financial institutions and denationalisation of some Banks; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government is not currently considering any proposal for the privatisation of financial institutions for the de-nationalisation of public sector banks.

(b) Does not arise.